GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

ENDOWMENT DEPARTMENT – Pilgrimage to poor Hindu families - Divya Darsanam Scheme – Introduced – Orders – Issued – Regarding.

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REVENUE (ENDOWMENTS.I) DEPARTMENT

G.O.Ms.No.243 Dt.9-6-2016

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ORDER:-

The Dharmacharya Sadassu organized at Tirumala on 2-12-2015 had recommended to organize prilgrimages to marginalized Hindus to major temples of importance in the State. They represented that Government has been funding pilgrimages to Muslims called Haj and for Christians to Jerusalem in recent years.

2. Accordingly, the Government hereby propose to launch a scheme known as DIVYA DARSHAN to popularize visits to major temples which are centres of social, spiritual and Dharmic renaissance and a common platform for Hindu congregations. This will also have the added spinoff of promoting domestic tourism.

DIVYA DARSANAM SCHEME DETAILS

1) The scheme envisages promotion of Hindu Dharma by way of facilitating religious tourism for Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, Backward Classes and other underprivileged Hindu communities.

2) The scheme covers poor people living in villages and urban slums.

3) From each district 10,000 people who are below the poverty line category will be taken in the pilgrimage.

4) It is proposed to cover a maximum of five members (including children) per family. Infants of less than 3 years will not be counted.

5) 90% of the beneficiaries will be only from SC, ST and BC communities. Persons belonging to other communities who hold white card and are poor will also be considered.

6) One or more persons nominated by the Assistant Commissioner, Endowments of the district concerned shall escort the pilgrimage party during the entire tour.

7) The spiritual tour circuit shall be designed in such a way that it will cover atleast 4 major temples enroute and terminate at Tirumala Tirupati, wherefrom they will return to their respective Districts.

8) Boarding and accommodation will be provided by the major temples and Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams.

9) At every halt at the designated temple, religious services like vratam, puja, cow worship (gopuja), archana, punya snanam in the river or pushkarini etc. will be freely arranged besides special Darsanam and Prasadam.

10) The tour programs are organized in such a way that there is no congestion on those days and the tour is so planned that the Darsanam, puja etc., are organized smoothly.

(p.t.o.)

11) The party will stay at a major temple enroute for the night and enjoy Harikathas, spiritual discourses, Bhajans or Kolatams etc., to instill love for the native arts and devotion to God. During the tour, the participants would render Bhajans and chant the name of God. The vehicles will be fitted with devotional DVDs to make the tourists enjoy the enlightening discourses or Samkeertans.

12) The entire pilgrimage is free. The tour shall not exceed a 4-5 days period.

13) The Commissioner, Endowments shall explore possibilities to provide all pilgrims with some Insurance cover. Medical ambulance and enroute police protection and other safety norms should be ensured.

14) People who are in the age group of 18-70 and physically fit are only included in the circuit tours. This age restriction is not applicable to children who are accompanied by their parents.

15) All facilities like free lodging, free boarding (annadanam), free tonsuring (if the pilgrims so require), free Darsanam, puja, free laddu prasadam and other prasadams like pustaka prasadam, temple calendar etc., will be given to all pilgrim families by the major temples as well as T.T.D.

16) The expenditure on account of transportation and other incidental expenditure shall be met equally by Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams on one hand and the 7 major temples of the State on the other. The expenditure on account of hosting the pilgrims will be borne by the respective temples.

17) The Commissioner, Endowments shall contact A.P.S.R.T.C. and make arrangements to provide buses in all the districts for the pilgrimage throughout the year.

3. The Commissioner, Endowments, Executive Officer, Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams as well as Executive Officers of all 7 major temples shall take action accordingly.

4. The Commissioner, Endowments shall make detailed arrangements in consultation with all concerned and issue further instructions required to make the scheme a success.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

J.S.V. PRASAD
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
The Commissioner, Endowments, A.P. Hyderabad.
The Executive Officer, Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams, Tirupati.
Copy to:
The P.S. to M. (Endts)
The P.S. to Prl. Secy. (Endts.)

//FORWARDED::BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER